

IMPORTANT LEGISLATION NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

S. 782, a bill known as the "government employee's Bill of Rights," passed the Senate on May 19, and is now before the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee. The next step will be a House vote on the bill.

WHAT IT IS

S. 782 is one of the most important pieces of legislation, from a homosexual point of view, to come before Congress in recent years. Among other things, the bill would make it unlawful for "any officer of any executive department or executive agency" of the Federal government, or "any commissioned officer....or member of the Armed Forces" acting in an official capacity, to question any government employee or prospective employee "concerning his attitude or conduct with respect to sexual matters." It would also forbid the use of psychological tests of lie-detector tests designed to elicit such information.

Other provisions of the bill make it unlawful for any government agency to elicit information about the "race, religion or national origin" of an employee or job seeker, to force attendance at meetings or lectures, to force employees to make political contributions, or otherwise attempt to interfere with their rights as private citizens.

Under the proposed law, a specific charge of sexual misconduct can still be made against an employee or prospective employee, but he must be afforded an opportunity to refute the charge.

Another provision of the bill would set up a Board on Employees' Rights, which would investigate complaints against government and Armed Forces personnel accused of violating the rights of employees and prospective employees. Where violations occur, the Board can impose sanctions upon the offending parties and, when it finds a pattern of violations of rights, is empowered to take steps to curb the offensive practices.

IMPLICATIONS FOR HOMOSEXUALS

For Homosexuals who work for the government, or who want to, the implications of this bill are great. Should S. 782 become law, it could well be the first step toward eliminating much of the existing employment discrimination against gay people.

WHAT TO DO

The bill has the support, and opposition, of legislators of every ideological stripe. It was written by Sen. Sam J. Ervin, a conservative who is a staunch protector of individual rights. The strongly "liberal" Leonard Farbstein and William Fitz Ryan are fighting for its passage in the House.

We strongly urge you to WRITE, CALL or WIRE your Congressman and ask him to vote for S. 782. Please ask your friends to do the same. While the bill did pass the Senate, House passage is expected to be more difficult. The Administration opposes the bill and is expected to use pressure to block its passage.

ITS SUPPORTERS NEED YOUR SUPPORT

WRITE, CALL or WIRE YOUR OWN CONGRESSMAN. If you don't know who he is, call a local newspaper, a local political club or the League of Women Voters.

Also, WRITE, CALL or WIRE at least one, and preferably several of the members of the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service. The committee members are given below. All are, of course, Washington, D. C. 20515.

Rep. Thaddeus J. Dulski, Chairman
House Committee on P.O. and Civil Service
205 Cannon House Office Bldg.

Rep. David N. Henderson, Chairman
Subcommittee on Manpower & Civil Service
217 Cannon House Office Bldg.

Rep. Arnold Olsen
1436 Longworth HOB

Rep. Jerome R. Waldie
408 Cannon HOB

Rep. Richard White
1329 Longworth HOB

Rep. William D. Ford
1006 Longworth HOB

Rep. Lee H. Hamilton
1107 Longworth HOB

Rep. Robert O. Tiernan
1706 Longworth HOB

Rep. Frank J. Brasco
1715 Longworth HOB

Rep. Graham Purcell
120 Cannon HOB

Rep. H. R. Gross
2368 Rayburn HOB

Rep. Robert J. Corbett
2467 Rayburn HOB

Rep. Edward J. Derwinski
1401 Longworth HOB

Rep. Glenn C. Cunningham
2447 Rayburn HOB

Rep. Donald E. Lukens
1338 Longworth HOB

Rep. Albert W. Johnson
1424 Longworth HOB

Rep. Morris K. Udall
119 Cannon HOB

Rep. Daniel E. Button
1513 Longworth HOB

Rep. Dominick V. Daniels
403 Cannon HOB

Rep. William L. Scott
1217 Longworth HOB

Rep. Robert N. C. Nix
2201 Rayburn HOB

Rep. James A. McClure
1034 Longworth HOB

Rep. James M. Hanley
109 Cannon HOB

Rep. Thomas J. Meskill
1017 Longworth HOB

Rep. Charles H. Wilson
104 Cannon HOB

Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan
1027 Longworth HOB

P.O. Box 1003

LE-HI-HO

Bethlehem, Pa. 18018

P E T I T I O N

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, PETITION THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION TO:

I. INTRODUCE IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE HUMAN RELATIONS ACT, AS AMENDED, TO INCLUDE SEXUAL ORIENTATION FOR PURPOSES OF PROHIBITING:

A. Public and private employment discrimination against homosexuals;

B. Housing discrimination against homosexuals;

C. Public accommodations discriminations against homosexuals;

And furthermore that the State Human Relations Commission,

II. USE THE POWER AND INFLUENCE OF THEIR OFFICE TO BRING AN END TO THE HARASSMENT OF HOMOSEXUALS, BY POLICE AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

NAME

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* YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A RESIDENT OF PENNSYLVANIA TO SIGN THIS PETITION
RETURN TO: LE-HI-HO, P.O. Box 1003, Moravian Station, Bethlehem, Pa.

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